

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 23, 2017

The Honorable Rex Tillerson
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C St, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Tillerson,

As bipartisan members of New York's Congressional delegation, we urge you to take further steps to seek a solution to the deportation of Jakiw Palij.

Mr. Palij supported the Nazi regime during the Holocaust. During that time, he served as a guard at the Trawniki camp in Poland, where atrocities were carried out against numerous innocents, in particular, victims of Jewish descent. There is abundant evidence of crimes committed at Trawniki, and according to the leader of the special investigation unit for the United States Justice Department, Eli Rosenbaum, the role of those like Mr. Palij was, "an essential component in the machinery of annihilation," at the camp. The then-United States Attorney for the Eastern District of New York said, "By guarding the prisoners held under inhumane conditions at Trawniki, Jakiw Palij prevented their escape and directly contributed to their eventual slaughter at the hands of the Nazis."

Mr. Palij later came to the United States under false pretenses, omitting his prior service to the Nazi cause. As a result of his history, Mr. Palij's American citizenship was stripped – the culmination of outstanding research and legal work by the Department of Justice. Despite being stripped of his citizenship due to the role he played in the Holocaust, Mr. Palij continues to reside in New York where his presence is not only unmerited but a painful reminder for Americans who fought against the Nazis or lost loved ones in the Holocaust.

As Members from New York's Congressional delegation representing constituencies personally affected by the horrors of the Holocaust, we are deeply concerned that the deportation of Mr. Palij is stalled and urge your personal intervention on the matter. Without very high-level involvement by your office and others in the Administration, it appears likely that countries will not be willing to accept him.

We appreciate your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,


Joseph Crowley


Jerrold Nadler

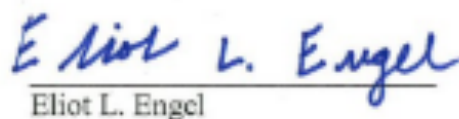

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